

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARBATOV'S ARTICLE ON CSCE AND DETENTE

REF: USNATO 4850

1. MISSION MAY DRAW ON MOSCOW'S 12693 IN DISCUSSION OF ARBATOV ARTICLE IN POLADS. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE POINT THAT MUCH OF THE ARBATOV ARTICLE SEEMS DIRECTED AT SOVIET DOMESTIC DOUBTERS ABOUT DETENTE. WHILE REASSURING THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE THAT MOSCOW WILL NOT TOLERATE EXPLOITATION OF CSCE PASKET III PRINCIPLES FOR INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ARBATOV WARNS THAT WESTERN CAMPAIGN ON CSCE MAY SEEK TO PROVOKE SHARP RESPONSE BY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, LEADING TO A "NOISY SQUABBLE" WHICH COULD SPOIL THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND HARM DETENTE. IN CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH;S, ARBATOV NOTES UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS AND EXTENT OF "OUR FOREIGN POLICY'S SUCCESSES," ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PRESERVATION OF DETENTE WILL REQUIRE A STUBBORN STRUGGLE

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BUT ARGUING THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE POLICY

IN THE NUCLEAR AGE, IT IS TO ADVANTAGE OF ALL PEOPLES, AND SOVIETS CAN REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY COURSE. THESE ARGUMENTS SEEM DIRECTED AT THOSE IN USSR WHO FEEL DETENTE IS REQUIRING SOVIETS TO PAY TOO MUCH FOR TOO LITTLE, AND INDEED THEY ARE ADVANCED IN A CONTEXT COMPLETELY

DISTINCT FROM THE AUTHOR'S ATTACKS ON WESTERN OPPONENTS OF DETENTE.

2. WE WERE ALSO STRUCK BY ATTENTION ARBATOV DEVOTED TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS ENERGY, FOOD, AND ENVIRONMENT AS ADDITIONAL IMPERATIVES OF DETENTE POLICY. TO EXTENT THESE VIEWS SHARED AT TOP LEVEL OF REGIME, IT WOULD INDICATE SOVIET REALIZATION OF NECESSITY OF MORE FORTH-COMING ATTITUDE ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES. KISSINGER

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